



*The CASE of the several Merchants that have
French Brandies upon their Hands, in Answer to
the Reflections cast upon them in the Case of the
Company of DISTILLERS in London.*

That there is not above Two Thousand Peeces of the said *Brandies* in Merchants Hands in *London*, which were all imported before the Prohibition, and at there Importation paid unto Their Majesties Eighteen Pounds Ten Shillings *per Ton* Duty, and one with the other paid Eight Pounds *per Ton* Freight, and their first Cost and Charges in *France* was Twenty Pounds *per Ton* at least, Leakage homewards included; so that every *Ton* of *Brandy* by them Imported cost about Forty Six Pounds *per Ton*; to which when Cooperage, Porterage, Warehouse-room, Interest of Money and waste of the *Brandy* for almost two years is added, every *Ton* of *Brandy* now remaining on the Importers hands doth not stand in less than Fifty Six Pounds *per Ton* one with the other.

And whereas it is alledged that the price of *Brandy* hath advanced from Thirty pound to Sixty pound *per Ton*, It is Humbly offered, That in *January*, 1688. before the prohibition, the price of *Brandy* was from Fifty pound to Fifty Two pound *per Ton*, and hath continued ever since from Forty pound to Fifty pound *per Ton* (by the *Distillers* their combining together) until they had Bought up all that was in Necessitous hands, at such Rates that the Importers were Loosers thereby, which they mixed with the Spirits they made, from *French*, *Spanish* and other Molosses, from Corrupted Prunes, Plumbs and other Fruit, selling it for *French Brandies*, whereby the People were defrauded, their Bodies poisoned, but themselves enriched, and would have kept on this Trade without Complaining, had not the *French Brandy* been so near spent, and its value now by the scarcity thereof become to be about Sixty pound *per Ton*, at which Rate the Merchants are but very small Gainers:

And the said Merchants do further affirm that they have no design any ways to Invalidate the said Act of Prohibition, but do humbly think it very severe and unprecedented, that they who have not only by the present War with *France*, patiently suffered the loss of a considerable part of there Estates, but willingly resigned their Trades, in which they have been educated, and upon all occasions chearfully contributed by Loans and otherways unto Their Majesties Government, and still continue so doing, should now have that small and inconsiderable advantage acquired by long keeping of their *Brandies*, not only taken away from them, but by a retrospect undergo a greater impairing of there Estates which of necessity must be if any further Duty be imposed upon the *Brandies* so imported before the Prohibition, and now upon their hands who have only pursued their Lawful Callings, and in no kind transgressed against the Act of Prohibition or any other Law.